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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A MASTER PLAN OF PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HIGH SPEED BROADBAND ACCESS IN RESORT AREAS THROUGHOUT HAWAII.

WHEREAS, universal access to broadband internet services has been touted as a vital economic engine for the nation, an essential vehicle for enhanced learning and medicine, and a critical element of the news and entertainment industries; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the number one economic driver for the State's economy; and

WHEREAS, state action is needed to support investment in, stimulate the adoption of, and remove potential barriers to the development and availability of world-class and universally accessible broadband networks in Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to establish a working group to create a master plan to provide universal high speed broadband access in resort areas throughout Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the working group is to:

(1) Develop specific strategies for the establishment of universal high speed broadband access throughout Waikiki and other resort areas throughout the State, including Kaanapali, Maui; Kohala, Hawaii; and Hanalei, Kauai; and

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(2) Identify best practices to establish a database that identifies current and prospective projects for deploying broadband; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include:

- (1) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism or the Director's designee;
- (2) One representative from the Hawaii Tourism Authority;
- (3) One representative from the Cable Television Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
- (4) One representative from the Department of Budget and Finance;
- (5) One representative from each of the Mayor's offices of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, and the City and County of Honolulu;
- (6) One representative from a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the Hawaii hotel industry to be selected by the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
- (7) Four representatives of county, state, and federal government entities that have a role in infrastructure deployment; management of public rights-of-way, regulation, and franchising; information technology; and economic development to be selected by the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and
- (8) Five representatives of Hawaii's private sector technology, telecommunications, and investment industries, including the incumbent local exchange carrier to be selected by the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee,

is requested to serve as the chairperson of the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that working group members serve without compensation but be reimbursed for all necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their duties as working group members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group provide a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group dissolve on June 30, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Finance, and the Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY:

